

JUNE 1961

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

OF THE

# RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
GENEVA

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

## Geneva

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<sup>1</sup>The figures in brackets represent the dates of nomination of the members of the International Committee

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

FIRST YEAR — No. 3

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### A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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## FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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## SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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### SPANISH

Reconocimiento de la Cruz Roja de Nigeria (Circular Núm. 434). — Informaciones del mundo entero. — El CICR y los acontecimientos de Cuba. — El CICR visita a los detenidos en el Congo. — Viaje del Presidente del Comité Internacional a Alemania (República Federal).

### GERMAN

Anerkennung des Roten Kreuzes von Nigeria (434. Rundschreiben). — Nachrichten aus Nah und Fern. — Reise des Präsidenten des Internationalen Komitees nach der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. — Das IKRK besucht Häftlinge im Kongo. Das IKRK und die Ereignisse auf Kuba.

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## AID TO REFUGEES

### The rôle of the International Red Cross <sup>1</sup>

When one studies the rôle of the International Red Cross in favour of so-called international refugees, who do not benefit from the national regime in the country of their residence, it is interesting to attempt to define, from a legal point of view, the character of the interventions which are made by this institution.

As is well known, the International Red Cross has not, strictly speaking, a personal function within the law of nations. It continues to be a private institution acting in the name of its own principles and traditions and is consequently completely independent of the public authorities. One can in fact see that it is one of the rare institutions which is entirely disconnected from the principal international activities controlled by the United Nations <sup>2</sup>. The statutes of the International Red Cross as an organized entity date from 1928 ; revised in 1952 they were left untouched by governments or by the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

This does not mean to say that this private institution is not concerned in public matters, since article 25 of the Covenant of the League of Nations has laid down that :

“ The Members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.”

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<sup>1</sup> We wish to thank the editors for having given us permission to reproduce this study which has appeared in the *Handbuch des internationalen Flüchtlingsrechts, herausgegeben von Walter Schätzel und Theodor Veiter im Auftrage des Komitees für Rechtsfragen der AER/AWR — Fürst Franz Josef von Liechtenstein-Stiftung (Fridtjof-Nansen-Institut) — Abhandlungen zu Flüchtlingsfragen Band I — Wilhelm Braumüller, Wien IX/66, Universitäts-Verlagsbuchhandlung Ges.m.b.H.* (Ed. Note).

<sup>2</sup> See Prof. W. Schätzel, “ La Croix-Rouge et les Nations Unies ”, article published in the *Revue française du droit des gens*, vol. XXVI and XXVII, 1957.

It can also be said that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies which are the two organs of the International Red Cross, both benefit from the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Geneva Conventions, which were drawn up to meet eventualities in time of war, make frequent references to the International Red Cross and in particular to the International Committee which, in its capacity as a traditionally neutral intermediary as agreed by the Parties to the conflict, is specifically entrusted with a number of clearly defined tasks. It should be emphasized that these agreements bind all the Powers together and are incorporated into positive international law.

Finally, the delegates of the International Committee on mission usually enjoy, by virtue of more or less usual custom, the benefits of diplomatic immunity and there have been occasions, as was the case in Hungary during the Second World War, on which the protection of the Red Cross in favour of certain individuals has been officially admitted<sup>1</sup> or else the headquarters of the ICRC delegation has been considered to be a place of asylum as in the case of foreign embassies. This does not imply, however, that the International Red Cross has any real "rights" of an international character outside those which have been laid down within the limits of the Geneva Conventions.

Now, as regards refugees the Geneva Conventions have a rather restricted range.

Direct or indirect references to the refugee question are made in articles 25, 26 and 134 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

Article 25 in particular stipulates that: "All persons in the territory of a Party to the conflict, or in a territory occupied by it, shall be enabled to give news of a strictly personal nature to members of their families, wherever they may be, and to receive news from them . . . If, as a result of circumstances, it becomes difficult or

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the ICRC on its activities during the Second World War*, I, p. 648.

impossible to exchange family correspondence by the ordinary post, the Parties to the conflict concerned shall apply to a neutral intermediary, such as the Central Agency provided for in Article 140, and shall decide in consultation with it how to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations under the best possible conditions, in particular with the co-operation of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies."

Article 26 reads as follows :

" Each Party to the conflict shall facilitate enquiries made by members of families dispersed owing to the war, with the object of renewing contact with one another and of meeting, if possible. It shall encourage, in particular, the work of organisations engaged on this task provided they are acceptable to it and conform to its security regulations."

As for article 134, it merely states laconically : " The High Contracting Parties shall endeavour, upon the close of hostilities or occupation, to ensure the return of all internees to their last place of residence, or to facilitate their repatriation."

This article only mentions internees, although the draft Convention which had been drawn up by the International Committee of the Red Cross and agreed by the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Stockholm, 1948) dealt with the problem of refugees as a whole. This was in fact worded as follows :

" The High Contracting Parties shall endeavour upon the close of hostilities or occupation, to facilitate the return to their residence or domicile, or the settlement in a new residence or domicile of all aliens who, as the result of war or occupation, are unable to live under normal conditions at the place where they may be.

They will facilitate the departure of these persons for another country, if they so desire, and will help them in obtaining for this purpose passports or equivalent documents ".

This was the definition of a principle which could have established in the various countries Party to the Convention a genuine " refugee law ", but as has been pointed out, this principle was not accepted. The delegation which had drawn up the text which was finally adopted by the majority of the members of the Conference had criticized the Stockholm wording as going beyond the scope of

the Convention. According to that delegation<sup>1</sup> the return of displaced persons or refugees to their place of domicile or their resettlement were matters for an organization such as the International Refugee Organization. Mr. Castrén, on behalf of the Finnish delegation, then declared that the draft article was no doubt inadequate to deal with the whole of so vast a problem, but he thought that the principle embodied in the article should be maintained in the Convention. To which the author of the amendment replied without controversion, that far from being opposed to the principle which he in fact approved, he did not consider it should be included in the Convention.

Without being incorporated in the law of Geneva, the principle as proposed by the International Red Cross however met with the approval of the Conference.

Such was the legal basis, somewhat limited as can be seen, upon which the International Red Cross could act in favour of refugees.

Furthermore, the International Committee's right of taking the initiative is recognized in very general terms in article 10 common to the four Geneva Conventions.

In point of fact the refugee problem extends beyond the consequences of international conflicts and is more often affected by internal disputes as alluded to in article 3 common to the four Conventions, even when it is not invoked as a result of acts which could justify the application of article 3<sup>2</sup>. Now article 3 makes no reference to refugees. It limits itself to demanding a minimum of humane treatment for victims of armed conflict not of an international character and to state that "an impartial humanitarian body, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, may offer its services to the Parties to the conflict."

This is tantamount to saying that in many cases the action of the Red Cross in favour of refugees cannot be founded in law on the letter of the Conventions, but that it can take its inspiration from the spirit of these Conventions.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Final Record of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva of 1949*, II, A., p. 690.

<sup>2</sup> On the subject of article 3, see the article by Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, "La Croix-Rouge et l'assistance aux détenus politiques", published in the review *Politique étrangère*, 23rd year, No. 1, 1958.

We shall see, however, that this action is by no means negligible. In lieu of "rights" the Red Cross in fact is often able to exercise "powers", as a result of the general approval given by the Powers and which is based on the confidence which it inspires, by reason of the services which are expected of it on the human level and all that it has done in the past. This power in reality depends on the interest taken by the Powers and on their determination to show themselves worthy of an ideal which is the common denominator of civilized peoples.

If this is the character of the interventions made by the International Red Cross, let us now see under what circumstances and to what extent these have been of benefit to refugees.

\* \* \*

Generally speaking the Red Cross has intervened either to help Governments carry out tasks which they have undertaken to ameliorate the condition of refugees, or to supplement governmental action.

In the first case, it has acted on the strength of agreements which have been made with the United Nations Organization or with Governments. These agreements had these points in common that they recognized the independence of the Red Cross and limited themselves to giving it material resources to enable it to accomplish actions freely carried out in accordance with its principles and traditions.

In the second case, the International Red Cross, observing the narrowness of certain rules, as for example those concerning the eligibility for protection by the International Refugee Organization or by the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees, has assisted refugees deprived of all protection, especially in circumstances when it alone was in a position to intervene.

Examples of the first case include action taken by the ICRC and the League on behalf of Palestine refugees in 1948-49 <sup>1</sup> and of Hungarian refugees in 1956-57 <sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See *ICRC Report on General Activities, July 1, 1947—December 31, 1948*, Geneva, 1949, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> See B. de Rougé, "Action de la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge en faveur des réfugiés hongrois", *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, February 1957, and *Report on the Relief Action in Hungary*, ICRC, Geneva, 1957.

Of the second case one can recall the creation by the International Committee of travel document 10,100b and its action for the reuniting of families, the tracing of missing persons and the aid which it gave to persons evacuated from Egypt.

### I

#### 1. Palestine refugees

The International Committee was in Palestine from the beginning of the conflict in 1948. Having obtained from the two parties an undertaking to abide by the principles of the Geneva Conventions, it launched a relief action in favour of the population which had been driven away by the hostilities.

The increasing number of Palestine refugees in Arab countries bordering the new State of Israel raised, towards the end of 1948, a very serious problem for the United Nations. The international community could not in fact leave the question of the refugees' upkeep entirely in those countries' hands. It therefore decided to allocate a sizeable amount for that purpose, but since it did not possess any representatives in the field, it required the International Red Cross to organize relief. The Society of Friends (Quakers) also participated in this organization. An agreement was drawn up between the United Nations Secretariat on the one hand, and the Committee and the League on the other hand, by which the necessary funds were placed at their disposal to supply some 900,000 persons.

The International Committee and the League reached agreement over the division of work, the former covering areas still affected by hostilities in which its presence as neutral intermediary between the belligerents was indispensable, whilst the latter supervised the organization of supplies to the countries bordering on Palestine but which had remained outside the conflict. In this way during sixteen months (until the moment when the United Nations decided to combine all the efforts which had been made on behalf of Palestine refugees with the vast programme of technical assistance), the International Committee ensured, thanks to the work of

its delegates and of the auxiliary teams which had been formed on the spot, the daily supplying of more than 400,000 persons, to which was added the organization of workshops, dispensaries, welfare services and schools. The League did the same for an equivalent number of persons.

## 2. Hungarian refugees

At the time of the events in Hungary in 1956, the flow of refugees into Austria placed a considerable strain on both the Government and the Red Cross Society of that country. How could these fugitives, who arrived harassed and without resources indeed be received whilst their number increased daily? On November 7, they numbered 10,000, 25,000 on November 15, 40,000 on the 19th, at the beginning of December 75,000 and by January had reached a figure of 135,000 !

The League had at first, thanks to gifts which it received from the National Societies, taken the responsibility for 10,000 refugees. As a result of agreements made with the Austrian Government and the High Commissioner for Refugees, it took over responsibility for as many as 45,000 persons grouped in 30 camps. In agreement with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, the League also formed groups of volunteers to accompany the refugees in special trains which transported them outside Austria. In recognition of these services, the Committee, whose President was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, awarded the League the Nansen Medal for 1957.

At the end of 1958 about 16,500 Hungarian refugees still remained in Austria. Following on an inquiry initiated by the League, the National Societies of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Norway and Sweden set aside a total of 800,000 Swiss Francs for the purpose of dealing with the question in 1959.

The International Committee of the Red Cross for its part established a tracing service to which the various Red Cross Societies communicated the whereabouts of Hungarian refugees in their respective areas. Thanks to a card-index which was set up in Geneva, a large number of arrangements were made which eventually led to the reuniting of many dispersed families.

## II

**1. ICRC Travel Documents <sup>1</sup>**

At the end of the Second World War large numbers of refugees and displaced persons had lost their identity documents or else they did not wish or were unable to obtain renewals of their passports. In order to remedy this state of affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to issue a travel document to enable holders either to return to their former place of residence or to look for a new residence. This document, known as Travel Document 10,100b, was issued on request to all who could give proof of : (1) lack of valid passport, (2) authorization had been granted for the applicant to leave the country in which he was then living and (3) agreement had been obtained from the diplomatic or consular authorities of the country to which the applicant wished to proceed, to grant a visa.

When sixteen Powers signed the London Agreement of October 15, 1946, under the auspices of the International Committee for Refugees, it could have been expected that the Geneva Committee would no longer have needed to issue Travel Document 10,100b. In fact these same Powers had undertaken to issue documents to refugees who possessed no identity cards and to recognize the validity of documents issued under the same conditions by the other signatories. It was necessary, however, to wait for several more years before a sufficient number of Powers had ratified the agreement for the refugees to be given effective aid. In the meantime the International Committee continued to issue the documents in question which, by 1950, had enabled more than 100,000 refugees to reach countries in which they could establish themselves.

**2. The reuniting of families**

In December 1949 a Conference was held at Bonn at which the representatives of the Allied and the German authorities met as

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<sup>1</sup> See an article published on this subject by Mrs. E. de Ribaupierre entitled : " Le CICR et le problème des réfugiés " in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, 1950, p. 332.

well as those of Co-ordination Committees of the German Red Cross. At this Conference it was decided that 25,000 persons of German origin from Poland and 20,000 from Czechoslovakia would be admitted into West Germany and be taken charge of by relations who wished to receive them. In subsequent years the International Committee of the Red Cross with the co-operation of the German, Yugoslav, Bulgarian, Czechoslovak and Rumanian Red Cross developed this action of reuniting families from which, by the end of 1956, more than 250,000 persons had benefited.

### 3. The tracing of missing persons

During the Second World War the Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva had established a card-index of information concerning civilians who had been dispersed as a result of hostilities. At the request of the Allied authorities this card-index was handed over in 1945 to the International Tracing Service which they had established at Arolsen in Germany. This service was taken over successively by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), The International Refugee Organization (IRO), then by the Allied occupation authorities themselves. The International Committee of the Red Cross took charge of this service in 1955. In 1956 it had supplied 23,617 certificates of imprisonment, 29,045 certificates of residence, 105,107 reports relating to persecuted and displaced persons and refugees, 1,538 certificates of death and 267 historical or statistical reports.

### 4. Aid to evacuees from Egypt

After the Suez conflict, Egypt proceeded to make alterations in its settlement policy.

This country can without doubt be considered to be one of the over-populated areas of the globe. As long as arable land remains underdeveloped requiring large-scale development projects, which for the most part remain unrealized, it is certain that Egypt will continue to suffer unceasingly from a lack of balance due to movements of the population.

The easy-going policy which had been carried out for many years towards the settlement of foreigners in the country, had

## AID TO REFUGEES

resulted in attracting large numbers of persons who at the time of the crisis of 1956-57 could have been regarded as being highly diverse.

The Suez conflict, however, resulted not only in the departure of important foreign colonies which had been established for a long time in Egypt, but also brought about the ruin of foreign commercial elements and craftsmen of many different nationalities who had been but incompletely assimilated with Egyptians and whose language they were in many cases unable to speak. The Egyptian Government did not place any obstacle in the departure of these elements which found themselves henceforth incapable of making a livelihood in Egypt through their own resources. It was discovered, however, that only the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to intervene, in order to guarantee to these persons the possibility of finding a country of asylum and to ensure that their journey was made under humane conditions. This action, which was undertaken in agreement with the Egyptian Government and with the support of governments willing to receive the refugees, has already enabled more than 15,000 persons to be resettled in favourable conditions.

\* \* \*

The cases which have been mentioned above enable one to realize how much support refugees have received and continue to receive from the International Red Cross.

This support does not consist properly speaking of rights, but custom has now established that Governments take seriously into account interventions which are made by the Red Cross on behalf of refugees. Such interventions are based not only on the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, but also on the general consent which States are giving in carrying out their humanitarian duties.

It is fortunate indeed that such institutions as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies enjoy such confidence throughout the world, which allows them on occasions to remind States of the existence of these duties.

HENRI COURSIER

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## RECOGNITION OF THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

GENEVA, May 15, 1961

### *434th Circular*

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent,  
Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition, on May 4, 1961, of the Nigerian Red Cross Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This Society applied for recognition by the International Committee by a letter dated March 13, 1961. The application was accompanied by the Government Ordinance of September 29, 1960, which accorded the Society official recognition, together with the text of the Society's statutes.

The study of these documents has shown that the ten conditions for recognition of a new Society have been fulfilled. The documents have also been examined in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The International Committee has pleasure, therefore, in announcing the recognition of this Society, which brings the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross to eighty-six.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Nigerian Red Cross becomes, moreover, the tenth National Society to receive recognition on the African continent.

Until Nigeria acceded to independence, the British Red Cross carried out its work in the country through its Nigeria Central Branch. It was succeeded by the new Society, which was founded on September 29, 1960. According to its Statutes and the government ordinance, it is recognized by the authorities as a voluntary aid society, auxiliary to the public authorities, in particular the Medical Service of the armed forces.

Moreover, its mission is to take action in the event of public disasters and disturbances, to prevent sickness and to train nursing and first-aid personnel. It also continues the numerous activities of the Nigerian Branch of the British Red Cross in the various regions of the country.

Nigeria acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 by virtue of their ratification by Great Britain in 1957. The application of these Conventions was proclaimed by a Government ordinance also published on September 29, 1960.

The Nigerian Red Cross is placed under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Flora Azikiwe; its President is Sir Adetokunbo Ademola. The President of the Executive Committee is Mr. Justice L. Brett. The Society's headquarters are in Lagos.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has great pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it by this notice to all other National Societies and recommends it to their kind attention. It expresses its best wishes for the Society's future and the success of its charitable work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER  
*President.*

## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

## News Items

**The work of the Red Cross in the Congo.** — *Mr. P. Delarue and Dr. P. Kiefer, delegates of the ICRC returned on April 15, 1961 from their mission to Katanga. They were able to obtain the necessary authorization and were granted every facility to visit places of detention : the central prison of Kasapa near Elisabethville and the penitentiary of Buluo near Jadotville, where there were respectively 1095 and 547 persons under detention. The delegates also visited two camps under construction especially reserved for political detainees.*

*In addition, Mr. G. Hoffmann, delegate of the ICRC, visited on April 22, 30 foreign members of the Katanga forces who had been arrested, then detained before being repatriated from the air base at Kamina.*

*The Red Cross medical teams continued their work<sup>1</sup> under more favourable conditions during the past few weeks. Since May 1, they are located as follows :*

Australia	<i>Oshwe (Leopoldville and Bunia, Oriental Prov.)</i>
Austria	<i>Kindu (Kivu)</i>
Canada	<i>Gemena (Equator)</i>
Czechoslovakia	<i>Banningville (Leopoldville)</i>
Denmark	<i>Matadi (Leopoldville) and Boma (Leopoldville)</i>
Finland	<i>Luiza (Kasai)</i>

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Germany (Fed. Rep.)	<i>Bakwanga (Kasai) and Kikwit (Leopoldville)</i>
Iran	<i>Thysville (Leopoldville)</i>
Ireland	<i>Beni (Kivu)</i>
New Zealand	<i>Luiza (Kasai)</i>
Norway	<i>Popokabaka (Leopoldville)</i>
Poland	<i>Idiofa (Leopoldville) and Stanleyville (Oriental Prov.)</i>
Sweden	<i>Lisala (Equator)</i>
Turkey	<i>Kirotshe (Kivu)</i>
Yugoslavia	<i>Bukavu (Kivu)</i>

**Visits to places of detention.** — *Continuing their visits to Algerians under detention in France, the delegates of the ICRC recently visited several prisons in the Paris area, as well as in the North and the South of the country. At the end of April and at the beginning of May, they visited detention centres at Fresnes, Meaux, Orléans, Douai, Loos-lès-Lille, Marseilles, Avignon and Lyons. The delegates were also given access to the « Centre d'identification judiciaire », Vincennes where, as elsewhere, they were able to speak, without witnesses, to the detainees' representatives.*

**Mission to Spain and Portugal.** — *Between May 8-13, Mr. P. Gaillard, delegate of the ICRC, spent several days in Spain and Portugal.*

*In Madrid our delegate had talks with the Spanish Red Cross and with Mr. Arbenz, the delegate of the ICRC in Spain.*

*Mr. Gaillard made contact in Lisbon with the President of the Portuguese Red Cross, Dr. Leonardo de Castro Freire.*

*A variety of problems were discussed during these talks, notably those connected with the recent actions of the Portuguese Red Cross in Angola.*

**Mission in Rumania.** — *During the second part of March, Mr. H. G. Beckh, delegate of the ICRC, once again visited Rumania. He was received by Mr. A. Moisescu, President of the Rumanian Red*



*In the hospital at Gemena, where the medical team of the Canadian Red Cross is at work.*

## CONGO

*Foodstuffs and medicaments for the hospital of Gemena being unloaded from a United Nations' aircraft placed at the disposal of the ICRC and accompanied by a delegate.*



Cross, Mr. P. Radu, Vice-President, and Mr. T. Patrascu, director, and was able to discuss matters of present mutual interest with that National Society.

The ICRC delegate visited several medical Red Cross posts. He was shown by representatives of the institution the activities of the Dobrudja regional branch, in particular of the medical service which works in the Danube delta on board ships displaying the red cross emblem.

On completion of his mission Mr. Beckh was received by the director of the department for international organizations at the Foreign Ministry in Bucarest. He thus had the opportunity of explaining certain aspects of the International Committee's activities, especially those connected with the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the reuniting of families.

**Mission to the Far East, Australia, New Zealand.** — Continuing her mission, whose successive stages the *Revue internationale* has already described on a number of occasions, Miss A. Pfirter, delegate of the ICRC, arrived in Rangoon on March 8. She had discussions there with the directors of the Burma Red Cross and visited the military hospitals as well as those of Mandalay and Kaymyo, where she gave a series of lectures to nurses.

She then visited Thailand, where she arrived on March 18. The opportunity was given to her to visit the Red Cross hospital, the centre for scientific research and the laboratory of vaccines against snake bites and she was also able to have numerous meetings with representatives of the National Red Cross, the Army medical adviser and the Ministry of Health.

A few days later Miss Pfirter was received at Kuala Lumpur by the Red Cross of the Federation of Malaya, and met personalities of the Army medical Service, of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and also visited hospitals and local Red Cross branches.

Miss Pfirter then went to Australia, where she attended the XIIth Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses held from April 17-22, to whose work we will refer later.

Finally, she went to New Zealand, where she had discussions with members of that country's Red Cross Society, as well as with Civil

*Defence and Ministry of Health personalities. She was also able to visit several local branches of the National Society.*

**Relief consignments.** — *Nepal: The ICRC delegation in Kathmandu is continuing its relief action. It has transported foodstuffs by air to the upper valleys of Nepal, in which Tibetan refugees are concentrated, so that their supplies may be assured during the monsoon period.*

*Two medical outposts have been set up, one at Thangboche (Khumbu) and the other at Jomosom (Thakkhola). Anti-cholera vaccines were parachuted at Walungchung to prevent an epidemic from breaking out in that valley.*

*At Kathmandu a handicraft centre consisting of a weaving workshop, a carpenter's shop, a tailor's shop and a school have been established with a view to giving professional training to Tibetan refugees in this area.*

*Greece. — Another relief consignment consisting of 350 blankets, 350 sets of track suits and 1500 pieces of soap was despatched by the ICRC from Trieste to the Piraeus. This consignment was a gift of the Hungarian Red Cross to the political exiles at Aghios Efstratios.*

**Compensation to victims of pseudo-medical experiments.** — *The International Committee of the Red Cross agreed to act as an intermediary for transmitting financial assistance which the Government of Bonn has decided to allocate to certain victims of pseudo-medical experiments inflicted on them in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime. This concerns those survivors who are at present residing in countries with which the German Federal Republic does not maintain diplomatic relations, chiefly in Hungary and Poland.*

*Missions of the International Committee went to Warsaw and Budapest in order to collect, in agreement with the National Red Cross Societies, the necessary documentation in support of claims for compensation which have so far been submitted.*

*A neutral commission, consisting of three Swiss personalities, selected by the ICRC from outside that institution, will then have the task of making pronouncements on those claims and of determining the amount of compensation to be allocated individually in each case.*

**International Museum of the Castiglione delle Stiviere Red Cross.**

— *The directing Committee of the International Museum of the Castiglione delle Stiviere Red Cross met on May 5 at the headquarters of the Italian Red Cross in Rome, for the purpose of examining the statutes and the internal regulations of the museum. This meeting was presided over by Dr. Guido Ferri, President of the Italian Red Cross, at which were also present, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League, Mr. R. Du Pasquier, representing Mr. J. S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, who was unable to proceed to Rome, Mr. Bernard Gagnebin, Assistant Director of the public and university library of Geneva, as well as several other leading Italian personalities. The directing committee approved the drafts which were submitted with some minor alterations. It had the satisfaction of being informed by Mr. Enzo Boletti, Mayor of Castiglione, that large numbers of people visit the International Museum of the Red Cross daily and that it is now included on the itinerary of certain travel agencies.*

**International Commission of Fire-brigades.** — *During the course of last winter, the ICRC had the opportunity of getting in touch with the International Commission of Fire-brigades, a body which consists of national associations of fire-brigades in a large number of countries and which is itself a part of the International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (ITCF). At recent congresses this Commission in fact laid stress on the humanitarian nature of the activities carried out by fire-brigades and expressed the wish that such activities could be pursued in all circumstances, especially in cases of armed conflict and could benefit by protection from international law strengthened accordingly.*

*With a view to examining the methods which could be employed to put this wish into effect, it requested Mr. Müller, President of the Swiss Society of Fire-brigades, to submit the problem to the ICRC, as it affected fire-brigades and to seek its advice.*

*On the basis of discussions which the representatives of the ICRC thus had with a delegation of the central Committee of that Society, the ICRC put forward its detailed views on the methods which could be employed to ensure greater protection in international law to the activities of fire-brigades in time of war, in so far as these are not of a*

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

*military character. These views were examined for the first time at a meeting held on April 14, 1961 at the headquarters of the ICRC, at which were present representatives of the International Committee on the one hand and on the other, the President and Secretary-General of the ITCF, Mr. Holaubek (from Vienna) and Mr. Collinet (from Paris). Mr. Bürger, President of the International Commission of Fire-brigades (from Rottweil-Zimmern, Germany), and other members of that Commission were also present.*

*This meeting also enabled the ICRC definitely to clarify the proposals which it had submitted with a view to strengthening the legal protection of fire-brigades in time of war to that Commission, which it will discuss at the next Congress.*

**International Red Cross broadcast.** — *For the eleventh time Radio-Genève arranged the international Red Cross broadcast transmitted under the auspices of the ICRC, the League, the European Broadcasting Union and the International Broadcasting Organization. This took place on May 8, the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth, which is celebrated in a large number of countries as a tribute to the founder and to the idea of the Red Cross.*

*74 countries from the five continents thus associated themselves with this programme of commemoration and hope, which this year included a symphonic work offered to the Red Cross by the Belgian Broadcasting and Television Service. This work was a cantata by Louis de Meester on a poem by Karel Jonckheere. Entitled " This is my blood ", it enlarged on the gesture of human fellowship shown by blood donors and its symbolic value.*

**Guests of the ICRC.** — *During the period March to May 1961, various personalities visited the headquarters of the ICRC. Our institution thus had the honour of successively receiving H. E. Dr. José Angel Saviñón, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of the Dominican Republic in Geneva ; Mr. Gaston Bouthoul, Professor at the Ecole des Sciences politiques of Paris ; H. E. Mr. Paul Grey, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, accompanied by Mrs. Grey and Mr. D. Balfour, Consul-General of Great Britain in Geneva and Mrs. Balfour ;*

*Mr. G. T. Neary and Mr. Perdur Kőnz of the International Agency for Atomic Energy in Vienna ; Mr. Jakob Burckhardt, new head of the Division for international organizations in the Political Federal Department at Berne, accompanied by Mr. Georges Bonnant, Counsellor of Legation, head of division of the same department.*

*The ICRC also had the pleasure of receiving personalities belonging to the Red Cross world. In this connection we make mention of visits made by Dr. Karel Blaha, head of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, Dr. Heinrich Weitz, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, Mr. Leon L. Baric, director of medical education of the Yugoslav Red Cross, Dr. Abou Qoura, Secretary-General of the Jordan Red Crescent, Mrs. MacVicar, of the British Red Cross, on her return journey from Nigeria and finally by Mrs. Irena Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross.*

*The ICRC was also pleased to welcome members of medical teams on their return from the Congo. In March these included Dr. Sixten Haraldson, of the Swedish medical team, members of the medical team of the German Democratic Republic whose head, Dr. Schmauss, was accompanied by Dr. Pittelkov, Dr. Junhans, Dr. Karg and Dr. Schmidt and in May a visit was made by Dr. Djukic, surgeon, of the Yugoslav Red Cross.*

*In addition, various groups visited the International Committee's headquarters for the purpose of obtaining information on the activities of the institution and of visiting the Tracing Agency. These included two consecutive parties of nurses of the Swiss Red Cross belonging to the "Lindenhof" Schools in Berne and "La Source" in Lausanne, of a group of seventeen pupils of the School of Social Studies in Geneva and of twenty students belonging to the German section of the World University Service.*

## **THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE EVENTS IN CUBA**

Since the beginning of the events which took place in Cuba in April 1961, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with its traditions and with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, has offered its humanitarian assistance in favour of all the victims of these events.

To this effect it has made various representations to the Red Cross Society as well as to the Cuban Government, declaring itself prepared to come to the aid of the Cuban Red Cross and has requested the authorities to agree to the despatch of a mission to the spot.

It should be recalled that the ICRC cannot carry out its activities in cases of conflicts of this nature, unless the authorities concerned give their approval and accord it the necessary facilities. Its intervention only aims at giving assistance to the victims who have been affected either directly or indirectly by such disturbances, the wounded and civilian and military prisoners, especially for the purpose of bringing them all aid which they may require, and of visiting places of detention with the object of satisfying itself that the conditions of internment conform to the humanitarian standards of the Geneva Conventions. The activities of the ICRC can under no circumstances reflect on the motives of the detention, which fall outside its competence, since it is not for the International Committee to become involved in the course of justice, this being the concern of the State concerned.

At the present moment the ICRC has to admit to its great regret, that all the representations which it has made with a view to accomplishing its humanitarian task have so far met with no success. It also regrets that it has been unable to obtain any news of persons

captured during the events and is thus prevented from replying to the numerous individual inquiries which have been made to it by the families of these prisoners.

The ICRC naturally continues to remain prepared to carry out its mission in Cuba, as it is doing in many other countries, as soon as it finds itself in a position to do so.

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### **THE ICRC VISITS PERSONS DETAINED IN THE CONGO**

In keeping with the efforts which the International Committee of the Red Cross is pursuing in visiting civilians and military personnel detained in all areas in the Congo, one of its own doctor delegates was authorized by the Government in Leopoldville, in May, to visit Mr. Moïse Tschombé, President, and Evariste Kimba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Katanga, in the villa at Coquilhatville, where they had both been detained before being transferred to Leopoldville. Accompanied by a doctor of the Swiss Red Cross, the delegate made a thorough medical examination of both these Katanga personalities.

During the same period the ICRC delegation in the Congo also visited some forty European military personnel in the service of the Katanga Government who had been captured by UNO forces and interned at Kamina and Leopoldville. After news had been forwarded to the families of this military personnel through the Central Tracing Agency at the headquarters of the ICRC in Geneva, UNO undertook to make representations for its repatriation. So far twenty-seven members of this personnel have been repatriated.

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## **THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE VISITS GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC)**

On the occasion of the resignation of Dr. Weitz, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Léopold Boissier, paid a short visit to Bonn.

The General Assembly of the German Red Cross was followed by a ceremony during which various personalities addressed the participants: the Countess Waldensee, Vice-President of the Society, Dr. Lübke, President of the Federal Republic, then Mr. Boissier, who reminded his listeners of the magnificent stimulus Dr. Weitz had given the German Red Cross and the excellent relations he had always maintained between his Society and the International Committee <sup>1</sup>.

The President of the International Committee had the honour of being received for a private interview by the Federal Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer, and also took the opportunity of his visit to Bonn in order to examine, together with leaders of the German Red Cross, various problems concerning this National Society and the Committee. He was given a very warm welcome wherever he was received in Bonn.

Mr. Boissier then proceeded to Arolsen where he visited the International Tracing Service (ITS), run by the ICRC. After inspecting the organization, he congratulated the staff on the work they have accomplished until now. Moreover, he expressed the confidence and satisfaction felt by the International Committee towards the energy shown by Mr. N. Burckhardt, Director of the ITS, and Mr. de Cocatrix, his chief Assistant, in directing this institution so surely and effectively.

Mr. Boissier also took this opportunity to visit the local branch of the Red Cross in Arolsen, which is so competently run by Dr. Wagner.

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<sup>1</sup> In our next issue we shall publish the text of the speech given by Mr. Boissier on this occasion.

## FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ICRC

The financial position at the end of December 1960 and accounts for the past year were verified by the Société fiduciaire OFOR S.A., the official auditors accredited by the Swiss Federal Council and the Commission fédérale des Banques.

In their report dated April 24, 1961, the auditors state that numerous checks were made to ascertain the accuracy of the figures entered in the books for the year 1960 and those of the general balance of accounts as on December 31, 1960.

Ordinary Expenditure and Receipts for 1960 show a deficit of Fr. 490,585.61 written off by withdrawal from the Reserve for General Risks.

The accounts of the special funds, i.e.—Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Augusta Fund, Empress Shôken Fund and the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, were published in the May 1961 issue of the *International Review*.

The Annual Report for 1960 also includes a detailed list of contributions to the ICRC by Governments and National Red Cross Societies as well as a summary of the General Account for Relief Actions in 1960 and a summary of the estimated expenditure for 1961.

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## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON

	Fr.	Fr.
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>AVAILABLE AND REALISABLE</b>		
Cash in hand . . . . .	34,389.70	
Postal Cheque Account . . . . .	104,655.90	
Balance at Banks :		
— Swiss francs . . . . .	1,876,161.39	
— Foreign Currency holdings . . . . .	120,706.85	
Public securities and other deposits . . . . .	16,582,547.15	18,718,460.99
<b>FUNDS EARMARKED</b>		
Advanced to ICRC Delegations and Delegates abroad . . . . .	258,401.27	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official organizations . . . . .	177,183.56	
Sundry debtors, advances and repayable costs, temporary assets . . . . .	612,805.13	
Commodities (current stocks) . . . . .	3,449.28	1,051,839.24
<b>OTHER ASSETS (nominal)</b>		
Capital share in the " Foundation for the organization of Red Cross Transports " . . . . .	1.-	
Reserve stocks . . . . .	1.-	
Furniture, machines and equipment . . . . .	1.-	3.-
<b>TRUST FUND</b>		
Funds received in connection with the Peace Treaty with Japan (assets in foreign currency) . . . . .		9,887,780.76
<b>MEMO-ACCOUNT</b>		
Debtor for security . . . . .		400,000.-
		30,058,083.99

DECEMBER 31, 1960

	Fr.	Fr.
<i>LIABILITIES</i>		
<b>COMMITMENTS</b>		
<i>Funds for relief actions :</i>		
Funds not yet assigned . . . . .	723,479.37	
Funds earmarked . . . . .	189,361.04	
Funds for current relief actions . . . . .	1,002,740.70	1,915,581.11
<i>Creditors</i>		
ICRC Delegations and Delegates . . . . .	13,420.70	
National Red Cross Societies, Governments and official organizations . . . . .	282,762.63	
Sundry creditors and temporary liabilities . . . . .	539,460.57	
Swiss Confederation Loan . . . . .	3,000,000.—	3,835,643.90
		5,751,225.01
<b>PROVISIONS</b>		
Provision for the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross . . . . .	90,000.—	
Provision for special expenditure . . . . .	275,000.—	365,000.—
<b>RESERVE</b>		
Guarantee fund . . . . .	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for action in case of conflict . . . . .	5,000,000.—	
Reserve for General Risks . . . . .	3,654,078.22	13,654,078.22
<b>TRUST FUND</b>		
Funds in connection with the Peace Treaty with Japan . . . . .		9,887,780.76
<b>MEMO-ACCOUNT</b>		
Guarantee in favour of the " Foundation for the Orga- nization of Red Cross Transports " . . . . .		400,000.—
		30,058,083.99

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## GENERAL ACCOUNT OF ORDINARY

	Fr.	Fr.
<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES AT GENEVA HEADQUARTERS</b>		
Allowances, salaries and wages . . . . .	2,016,911.20	
Family allowances, insurance and other social charges . .	428,738.25	
Postage, telegrams, telephone . . . . .	55,662.11	
Equipment, maintenance and general supplies . . . . .	115,066.50	
Upkeep of cars and lorries . . . . .	9,075.55	
Reception of visitors and travelling expenses in Switzerland	20,869.25	
Sundry expenditure . . . . .	48,661.02	2,694,983.88
<b>SPECIAL EXPENSES</b>		
Publication, information and documentation . . . . .	181,113.38	
Allowances for expenses of Members of the Presidential Council . . . . .	43,800.—	
Red Cross Conferences and Meetings . . . . .	32,938.80	
Missions from Geneva . . . . .	105,168.87	363,021.05
<b>DELEGATIONS ABROAD</b>		
Delegates' salaries, allowances and insurance . . . . .	128,898.46	
Delegates' travelling expenses and maintenance, overhead expenses of delegations . . . . .	84,467.90	
	213,366.36	
Special action in the Congo . . . . .	226,560.25	439,926.61
Allocation to Fund for special expenditure . . . . .		30,000.—
		<u>3,527,931.54</u>

**EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS FOR 1960**

	Fr.	Fr.
<i>RECEIPTS</i>		
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS TOWARDS THE FINANCING OF THE GENERAL WORK		
Contributions by Governments . . . . .	1,319,674.29	
Contributions by National Red Cross Societies . . . . .	405,047.97	
Sundry donations . . . . .	317,070.27	2,041,792.53
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS		
Income from Public Securities and Bank Interest . . . . .	396,987.15	
Income from ICRC Foundation. . . . .	31,206.95	428,194.10
SUMS RECOVERED AND SUNDRY RECEIPTS		
Costs recovered. . . . .	525,838.05	
Sundry receipts . . . . .	41,521.25	567,359.30
<i>Total receipts</i>		3,037,345.93
DEFICIT FOR 1960		
Written off by withdrawal from Reserve for General Risks.		490,585.61
		<u>3,527,931.54</u>
<i>Note : Receipts and expenditure for relief supplies are not included in this account.</i>		

## WORLD RED CROSS DAY

As in previous years, World Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant. The National Societies of a number of countries organized special celebrations in commemoration of the author of "*A Memory of Solferino*".

Several reviews published articles on this anniversary and in a "Red Cross Week", various Central and local Committees held exhibitions dealing with one aspect or another of their humanitarian activities. In some countries, the postal authorities issued special stamps, in agreement with the national Red Cross Society. As mentioned elsewhere, the international Red Cross broadcast was transmitted directly or relayed by a very large number of countries; the French-speaking programme of the Swiss Television Service commemorated the day with a film on Dunant's life.

As in past years, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, published a message, which we reproduce below, on the occasion of World Red Cross Day :

*Of all the demands for emergency aid to which the Red Cross has been asked to respond in recent years, none has involved so much individual sacrifice as meeting the appeal for assistance in the Congo.*

*In answer to my own personal appeal immediately after the Congo crisis began to unfold last July, doctors, nurses and auxiliary medical personnel, recruited by the International Red Cross from twenty-three member societies throughout the world, began arriving in the Congo to staff hospitals and dispensaries which otherwise would have been unable to function.*

*There is no doubt that these medical teams, composed of a total of 168 men and women inspired by the highest humanitarian motives, have saved hundreds of lives and averted what might easily have become a medical catastrophe in the Congo.*

*But administering to the sick and maintaining vital health services is not the complete story of what the World Red Cross movement is*

*doing to relieve suffering and aid the objectives of the United Nations in the Congo. The League of Red Cross Societies, again through the efforts of its national organizations in seventeen countries, has participated in a massive feeding operation in South Kasai province and other afflicted areas. In addition, medical and other relief supplies, distributed with the help of Red Cross field representatives, have been instrumental in easing the situation in a number of areas. The Congolese Red Cross alone is daily distributing milk supplied by the United Nations among 150,000 mothers and children.*

*All of this is being accomplished while the Red Cross continues to meet its obligations and commitments in other parts of the world.*

*In recognition of this great humanitarian work, inspired by Red Cross founder Henri Dunant, I wish on this World Red Cross Day to express my personal gratitude—and I am sure the gratitude of men of good will everywhere—for yet another demonstration of the untiring and selfless response of Red Cross workers to relieve human suffering.*

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# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Austria

In 1959, an emergency relief service was set up in order to take action in the event of natural disasters, and the Austrian Red Cross supplied each of its sections in the Länder with equipment including, as well as a tent, sufficient dressings to care for about 150 persons.

Complying with a request of the Austrian Red Cross, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Afritsch, decided to make funds from the Civil Defence budget available to this Society, thus enabling it to acquire fourteen additional sets of equipment. He also agreed to the purchase of fourteen single-axle trailers to transport the new equipment, as well as ten more of these trailers for the equipment that had already been supplied to the regional sections.

This substantial contribution on the part of the Minister of the Interior enabled the Austrian Red Cross to provide a total of 24 regional sections with mobile units capable of taking the field at the shortest possible notice.

On the occasion of the twelfth General Assembly in December 1960, the equipment and trailers were formally handed over to the regional sections by Mr. Afritsch himself<sup>1</sup>. The electrically driven cars belonging to the regional sections which had received equipment were assembled on the wide square in front of the Schwarzenberg Palace in Vienna; numerous spectators mingled with the chairmen and representatives of the regional sections who had attended the General Assembly.

In a short address, the Minister of the Interior reminded his listeners of the duties which the Red Cross would be required to

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

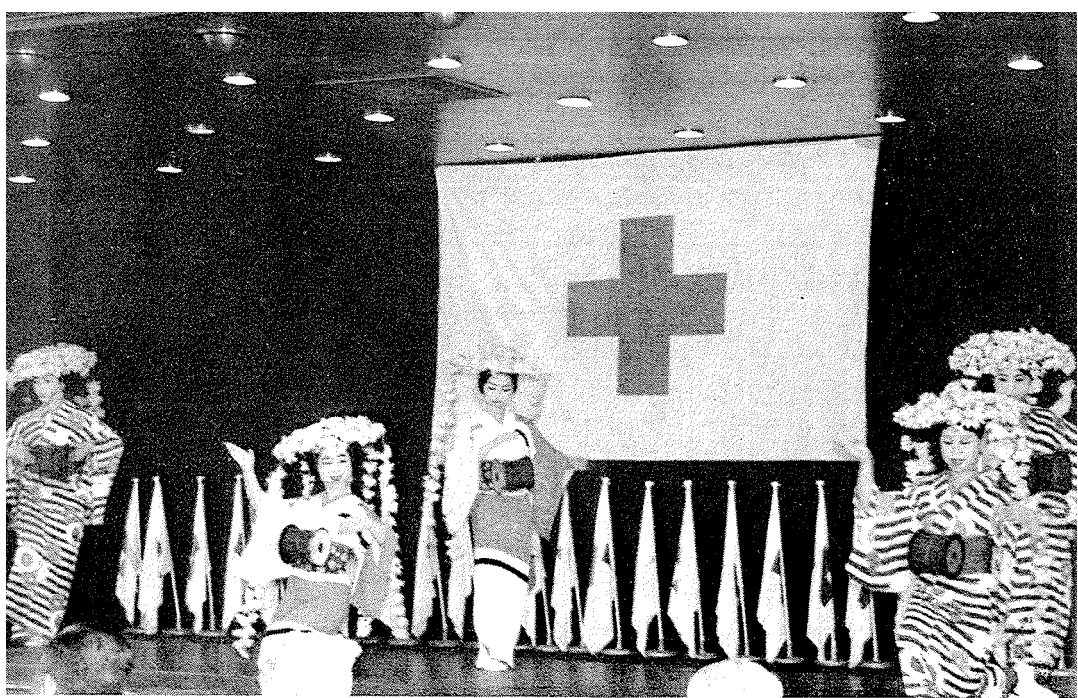


*Dr. H. v. Lauda, President of the Austrian Red Cross Society (in front, on the left) thanking Mr. Afritsch, Minister of the Interior; Mr. Sevcik, Secretary-General (centre).*

## AUSTRIA

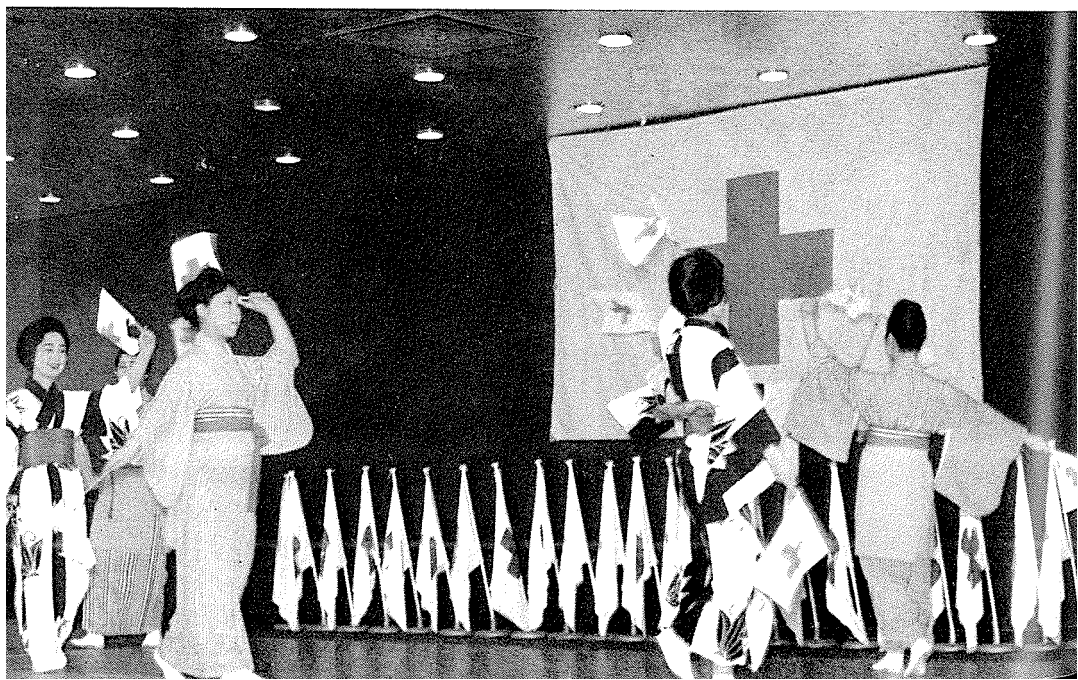
*Vienna — Trailers and relief equipment being handed over to the Austrian Red Cross.*





*JAPANESE RED CROSS —*

*Display of folk-dancing during the Cherry Blossom Festival.*



fulfil in connection with Civil Defence which is soon to be organized in Austria. The Austrian Red Cross, he stressed, must realize that it will have a leading rôle to play in protecting the civilian population. For this reason, and as a first step, the Minister decided to supply the Red Cross with the necessary equipment to ensure prompt action in time of need. Mr. Afritsch thanked the Austrian Red Cross and its helpers for the work they are accomplishing and urged them to continue their efforts and remain prepared to give assistance in all circumstances.

Dr. Lauda, in his turn, thanked the Minister for the aid given and the understanding attitude shown to the Society. The trailers and equipment were then handed over to the regional sections.

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## Japan

The "Konju-Kai" Society, which was founded in Tokyo in 1960 for the purpose of developing the idea of the Red Cross with the Japanese public, decided to hold its first annual general meeting this year on April 10, on the Cherry-blossom Festival.

This Society consists of all those members of the Japanese Red Cross who have shown themselves to be particularly active and generous in Red Cross affairs and who are, as a result, entitled to wear the blue ribbon. The delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross on special mission in Japan was invited to speak on the Red Cross spirit. His speech which is published below, was translated simultaneously from the French into Japanese by Mr. Seibi Ota, liaison officer of the External Affairs Section of the Japanese Red Cross and was the subject of an article in the National Society's publication in English and in Japanese.

The celebrations also included an address by the President, Mr. Shigehisa Hagiwara, who expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the "Konju-Kai" Society had doubled its membership within a year and had contributed 33 million yen to the Japanese

Red Cross, thus enabling the completion of the Centre for the Fight against Cancer at the National Society's Omori Hospital.

The speeches and a reception at the Ueno Seiyoken Hotel were followed by a display of folk-dancing in honour of the Red Cross and of the Cherry-blossom Festival given by the Ayumi-kai pupils of the Nishizaki School of Japanese dancing <sup>1</sup>.

### Some reflections on the Red Cross spirit

*The meaning of the Red Cross spirit is the moral inspiration which at all times guides humanitarian activities according to Red Cross principles.*

*Whatever work is undertaken in the relief of suffering, whether it concerns important government decisions within the framework of the Geneva Conventions or whether relating to the daily tasks of individuals, it is based on that special code of honour which has become second nature to members of the Red Cross.*

*In Japan, the land of the Bushido, in which the traditions of honour have remained so alive, the Red Cross spirit naturally presides over the development of the social life of the community. One need only mention here Mr. Juji Enomoto's most interesting articles which were published in 1956 in the Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge. As a former professor of international law at the Staff College of the Japanese Navy, he wrote about the origins of humanitarian ideas in Japan and pointed out that "the Japanese ideal implies that the human spirit is essentially humanitarian in character."*

*Brief mention can now be made of what these Red Cross principles are and it will be recalled that Mr. Pictet made an admirable study of the subject <sup>2</sup> which has been translated into Japanese by Mr. Inoue.*

*There are first of all four fundamental principles :*

*1) Humanity — The Red Cross fights against suffering and death. It demands that man shall be treated humanely under all circumstances.*

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<sup>1</sup> Plate.

<sup>2</sup> J. S. Pictet — *Red Cross Principles*. Geneva, 1955.

2) Impartiality — *The Red Cross is ready to come to the help of all those who suffer according to their needs and without any form of discrimination of race, ideas or social condition.*

3) Independence — *The Red Cross is independent of all authorities and free from every influence.*

4) Neutrality — *It must observe strict neutrality in the military, political and philosophical spheres, on the national and international level.*

*To these four fundamental principles can be added organic principles which bring out the voluntary, disinterested, democratic and universal character of the Red Cross. They also lay down rules of action for the national and international organs of the Red Cross and for their representatives, delegates and for various persons who give their co-operation, to be ready at all times to work in accordance with these principles, above all where aid is most required, to co-operate with those who act for similar ends and in all circumstances to respect the name and the emblem of the Red Cross in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.*

*Such are the ideas from which the work of the Red Cross is derived throughout the world.*

*Consequently, it is evident that the Red Cross spirit is one of peace. Although it started on the battlefield of Solferino a hundred years ago and has always shown itself to be ready to come to the aid of war victims, the Red Cross however does not prepare men for war: it prepares them to act in time of war as in peace according to its own principles. In other words, it trains them to remain humane whatever happens.*

*Historically the Red Cross spirit has first of all contributed towards humanizing certain consequences of war.*

*It is in this spirit and on the basis of proposals which were made by the International Committee of the Red Cross that the Geneva Conventions were drawn up, which have successively afforded protection to various categories of war victims, the sick and wounded of the armed forces on land or at sea, prisoners of war, interned civilians and the non-combatant population. This protection has since been extended to victims of civil wars and internal disturbances. Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, in fact ensures*

*that a minimum standard of humane treatment is guaranteed to them. This in itself is a very interesting extension of the law of Geneva, which, in keeping with the classical ideas on international law, had hitherto made no mention of the relationship between States and their own nationals. However, from a strictly human point of view, if one wishes to mitigate suffering and respect human dignity in accordance with the Red Cross spirit, these relationships are dependent on the same moral requirements. This was so much the case that the International Committee, then the International Conference of the Red Cross, —the deliberative body of the International Red Cross,—had for a long time made a study of this problem and recognized the fact that all victims of civil war or internal disturbances without exception had the right to be given assistance in accordance with general Red Cross principles<sup>1</sup>.*

*In Japan the National Red Cross Society was founded in precisely this spirit in 1877, at a time of civil war. After a particularly bloody battle, Senator Tsunetami Sano (who had become aware of the Red Cross when he visited the World Exhibition in Paris) obtained, thanks to the support of Prince Arisugawa, the Commander-in-chief, authorisation from the Imperial Government to create a philanthropic Society empowered to care for the rebel wounded. As everyone knows, this Society was to become the Japanese Red Cross.*

*But if the Red Cross spirit has thus led to the protection of victims of conflict by insisting in some degree on the rudiments of peaceful behaviour under war conditions, it was also logical a fortiori that it should contribute to the elimination of suffering in peace time. In 1919, at the end of the First World War, when the plenipotentiaries of the Powers were engaged in establishing machinery for peace which would eliminate war for ever, they chose Geneva, the town in which the Red Cross spirit prevailed, for the headquarters of the League of Nations.*

*It is not therefore without good reasons that Article 25 of the Covenant of the League of Nations makes explicit mention of the Red Cross. This article, which solemnly consecrates both the institution and its principles, states : " The members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly*

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<sup>1</sup> See especially the Xth Conference, Geneva, 1921, Resolution XIV.

*authorized voluntary National Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world."*

*This text was to foreshadow the way in which the Red Cross movement was to develop for, without even waiting for this official approval to be given, the National Red Cross Societies of Japan, United States, Great Britain, France and Italy came to an agreement to found the international federation which was to become known as the League of Red Cross Societies. Today the League, like the International Committee (the founder body of the Red Cross movement), the National Societies and the governments party to the Geneva Conventions are solidly united in their humanitarian action by the Red Cross spirit.*

*What are the chief manifestations in peace-time of the Red Cross spirit ?*

*In the relationship between men of different nationalities, this can be seen in the development of mutual aid on an international scale and in the relationship between nationals of the same country, and thus identifying itself with progress in the social services.*

*The administering of international mutual aid in the event of natural disasters is part of the functions of the National Societies. No year goes by without some calamity which shows these Societies hurrying to the aid of some fellow Society to deal with the events. As an example of this, one can mention the great floods of 1953 in the Netherlands, when as a result of breaches in the sea-dykes, entire communities were ruined and even deprived of their land, since cultivation was found to be impossible long after reclamation, in view of its impregnation with salt. This misfortune resulted in a great movement of generosity and the Netherlands Red Cross received relief from no less than thirty-nine National Societies.*

*A relief fund set up in 1912 by the Empress of Japan, known as the Empress Shōken Fund, is administered in Geneva by the International Committee and the League. Its object is to give annual support to National Red Cross Societies in their relief to victims of natural disasters. In addition to large-scale relief actions during conflicts or major calamities, it is a good thing, in fact, that international aid operates in a continuous fashion, even in the undertaking of more modest tasks, but this symbolizes to a certain extent the con-*

*tinuity which exists in international fellowship. In this way, the spirit of the Red Cross appears to us to be a veritable spirit of human brotherhood in keeping with its origins when the Piedmontese women who had been called upon by Dunant, treated not only their own compatriots but also the enemy wounded, saying that they were all brothers : Tutti fratelli.*

*On scrutinizing the inner workings of various countries, one can see that the Red Cross spirit considerably favours the development of social welfare schemes. Nursing schools in particular, are for example administered in many countries exclusively by the National Red Cross Society. In Japan notably, and this is a matter for congratulation, that Society controls thirty-six nursing schools which produce six hundred trained nurses each year.*

*It is not by any means surprising that the National Societies should give their attention primarily to the training of nurses, thus following the magnificent example of Florence Nightingale who, together with Dunant, inspired the first Red Cross action. It is however typical of present-day trends that these Societies showed themselves also to be pioneers, then to assume ever greater responsibility in the sphere of the social services.*

*Special mention must be made of the work of the Belgian René Sand, a former Secretary-General of the League, Elsa Brandström in Sweden and Eglantyne Jebb in Great Britain, whose names are closely associated, notably with the first attempts to assist unhappy children.*

*In some countries the State has itself taken over the organization of the social services from the National Societies, which has enabled these to give more attention to first-aid and to relief in cases of natural disasters. In spite of this, however, they are very much concerned in the development of the social services, since they continue to assist the authorities in this sphere.*

*Finally, the Red Cross spirit is showing itself more and more in evidence, particularly in such a well-balanced and active organization as the Junior Red Cross.*

*This is a matter for great satisfaction to the adult Red Cross and to all who understand the full meaning of this movement. In fact, the Junior Red Cross gives children and young people numerous opportunities of learning to become good citizens by practising the*

*civic virtues. In this way they are giving their services to the community in the furtherance of social progress.*

*The result of all these activities has been to make of the Red Cross a veritable public service upon which the authorities tend to rely more and more. This does not however mean that the directors and the instructors of the National Societies have become State officials. Since they are bound to act in all circumstances in accordance with Red Cross principles and since they have bonds of fellowship which unite them on the international level, their co-operation with the State ensures the giving of disinterested service which thus makes a valuable contribution, at least so far as the development of human relationships is concerned, towards a certain amount of international understanding. This therefore demonstrates the essence of the Red Cross spirit, which is its universality.*

*It is indeed a pleasant thing to be able to evoke the Red Cross code of honour, which brings so many benefits to every country and to the international community as a whole.*

*The Cherry-blossom Festival, a festival of youth and Spring, celebrated in Japan from time immemorial, is known throughout the world as a symbol of the gracefulness and vitality of a country which nature has so richly blessed.*

*The white flag of the Red Cross, emblem of human brotherhood, is rightly associated with all the joyfulness of this festival. At the foot of Fuji Yama and its pure untrodden snows, that delectable mountain, which is known throughout the world and is so dear to all Japanese hearts, this flag flies joyfully today, surrounded by nurses in their white blouses, amidst the honours of the festival : for here is life, youth, fellowship and hope amongst the flowering petals, the fragrant snows of Spring.*

# CHRONICLE

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## A FINE HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The *International Labour Review* <sup>1</sup> has published an article by Mr. John Wilson, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. In view of its great interest, which is both informative and of social and moral importance, we consider that a wider circulation will result in serving the cause described in this study with breadth of vision and objectivity and it is for this reason that we now present chief extracts of this article to our readers.

The author starts by giving numerical data . . . "the number of blind people was estimated <sup>2</sup> at a minimum of 9.5 million, of whom not less than 7 million live in rural areas . . . scientifically ascertained statistics are not available, and it may well be that later investigations will show that the present estimates are a substantial understatement." The highest rates of blindness have been recorded "in Africa, where the problem reaches startling proportions in some areas where trachoma and onchocerciasis are endemic." Vast problems of this sort have also to be faced in Latin America and in Asia, especially as the outstanding conclusion from recent surveys is that "a massive proportion of the world's blind (8 to 12% children and 35% men and women of working age) live in rural and predominantly agricultural communities in the emergent countries." The author urgently advocates action "for economic no less than for humanitarian reasons", first of all to prevent eye disease, then to save what can be saved by introducing realistic forms of education and rehabilitation.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by the International Labour Office, Geneva, November 1960.

<sup>2</sup> Statement presented to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind at its Rome Conference in 1959.

Mr. Wilson then expresses what to us seems to be the ruling idea throughout the whole article . . . " The important fact about a blind villager is not that he lacks sight, but that he is a member of the community. Once this is accepted, it will not be difficult to show that it is within the community's power and very much to its interest to help him to become a productive worker instead of maintaining him as a dependent." And then in order to demonstrate the importance of this idea of the community in its different aspects he covers a wide area, chiefly throughout the British Commonwealth, in order to demonstrate that it is first and foremost rural communities in which urgent measures must be taken to prevent eye disease and to introduce effective measures of education and rehabilitation.

He gives a brief historical summary of all that has been achieved in this field in the more advanced countries . . . " In the century-and-a-half during which modern systems of blind welfare have been evolving . . . the emphasis has been laid almost exclusively on urban accomplishments in education and employment." In some countries remarkable success has been achieved at first with the provision of sheltered employment, and more recently with the placement of blind workers in factories, offices and in the professions. Thus in the United Kingdom " one third of all blind people of working age are employed, more than half of them in competitive, unsubsidized jobs . . . " The techniques of placement in unsheltered employment have had excellent results in the United States which together with pre-war Germany pioneered them, so that some 20,000 blind people are now at work in an extremely wide range of occupations. In Japan " which has a long history of work for the blind " approximately 35,000 blind people are classified as employed, most of them in specially reserved occupations. Recent reports from the Soviet Union record that there are 286 " workshop schools " for the blind, many undertaking highly mechanized forms of production. The author points out that even in these countries " it is noteworthy, however, . . . that few attempts have been made until recently to organize rural occupations for the blind."

The problem of blindness was presented in the above-mentioned countries, in India, the Far East, South America or in Africa by blind people making their presence obvious by begging and the

## CHRONICLE

founders of the first institutions for the blind were usually missionaries. These understandably turned westward for their instruction notably in the teaching of Braille . . . " They reproduced, often with minute fidelity, the schools and workshops of Europe and North America ".

It has only been during the past few years, when welfare and health measures have been carried out by the governments concerned, that the " formidable size of this problem " has been revealed in rural areas, where " the overwhelming majority of the blind " live, especially, as has been previously stated, in Africa and Asia. Here too the full extent of the drama was to be revealed by begging, due to the weakening of family and clan traditions, so that considerable numbers of blind people, who were formerly family dependents, are becoming mendicants or in need of public relief. This sad state of affairs has been brought to light by medical investigations and welfare enquiries undertaken in the villages and amongst the tribes by various organizations.

However, the situation has shown a marked improvement during the past few years ; in fact, thanks to the increase in the number of welfare services for the blind as well as the recent creation of national and international organizations, it has been possible to apply technical methods of instruction which, in many cases, have resulted in turning a blind person into an independent and self-reliant human being who is capable of taking a normal part in life, both morally and materially.

The author then mentions numerous examples of training centres which, thanks to the above-mentioned factors, were and have proved themselves to be highly successful. Thus shortly after the First World War the St. Dunstan's organization in England opened a farm training centre for men blinded. A similar centre was started in 1943 for men blinded in the Second World War. Both these centres have now been closed but they have trained a large number of students who make a living on the land, mostly as poultry farmers.

In the United States communities exist for the blind in rural areas in which training is given and has been largely developed. Thus in 1949 the Cincinnati Association for the Blind established a school for blind farmers at Mason (Ohio) on 56 acres of land at

which an agricultural course was given with emphasis particularly on dairy work and the keeping of poultry, pigs and bees. In a number of other States training courses for blind farmers have been arranged at general agricultural schools and "though exact figures are not available, it seems likely that some hundreds of blind farmers are included amongst the 3,500 blind workers in the United States who are classified as employed in rural areas."

The United States showed themselves to be pioneers in this field. In 1950 a training centre for the blind was established in Athens modelled on work in America. The results are revealing since, out of 50 blind men who have now returned to their villages from this school, 38 are reported to be well established, some being amongst the most prosperous farmers of their locality.

These examples of the possibilities of training the blind for rural work gave great encouragement to similar efforts in France and Spain and in Africa and Asia. In fact, these examples showed the possibilities of training the blind under suitably prepared conditions in effective work in rural areas. It was not so much a question of starting something new, but of co-ordinating, concentrating and putting into effect an action which was by itself capable of improvement for, "even among primitive communities, a surprising number of blind villagers succeeded in maintaining themselves as peasant cultivators and craftsmen."

This can be borne out by experience in two centres in Nigeria and Rhodesia, descriptions of which are reproduced below, since, in the author's words, they bring "life into the picture":

As you drive through the gates of the Ikeja Farmcraft Centre you are immediately impressed by the novelty of the place and by the freshness of the ideas which have inspired it. The main buildings were constructed in concrete as a concession to the Lagos town plan, but in every other respect the place has the atmosphere of a well run Nigerian village. The blind farmers, who know every yard of the 65 acres, are typical villagers — men from the creeks, from Ibo and Yoruba tribes, from the Hausa Emirates, the Northern Plateau and the hill country of the Cameroons. This was a normal working day and the range of activity would have been remarkable in any setting; blind men were building the compost heaps, watering the crops, staking the beans, weeding a plot of pineapples, sifting earth into seed boxes, laying a new path with pegs and a rope line to mark the boundary, and digging and ridging a difficult piece

## CHRONICLE

of new land. At one place, 10 feet up on a bamboo construction, two blind men were fixing the roofing thatch on a typical village hut with dried mud walls. The only difficulty was when we asked the Principal, who is himself blind, whether we might see a demonstration of Braille reading ; he replied that only three of the blind students were literate and that so far they had been too busy with the farmcraft course to have time for the optional Braille lessons which are provided in the evening.

The second description is of a school for the blind in a Rhodesian village, one of ten such schools which have been established in tropical Africa in an attempt to provide a realistic curriculum which will prepare blind children for life as peasant farmers and village craftsmen :

The village is a scatter of thatched huts around the chief's compound. It flanks the river which, with a few sparsely cultivated fields, provides food and work for the tribesmen. The blind school, made of sun-dried bricks under thatch, was built by the village people for less than £ 650. Thirty-two blind children attend, some coming daily from neighbouring huts and other from remoter villages, living in "round houses" each under a "hut chief". There are two teachers, both village men. One teaches full-time at the school whilst the other spends part of his time on a bicycle visiting villages within a radius of 50 miles, getting to know all the blind and laying the foundations of a simple after-care system. If you ask the headmaster for his curriculum, he will probably produce it with some difficulty, but it gives only an approximate idea of what the children do. Shortly after dawn, you will see them in the "bush" gathering wood for the fire and material for the day's work. When I was there, two of the blind students were fashioning a canoe from a tree trunk whilst others repaired hand-made nets, kindled the fish-curing fire or worked in the fields where they grow much of the school's food. There are formal lessons, but the classroom is part of the village and open to its sounds and life. Most of the children learn Braille, but this does not interfere with their more active education ; they have improvised an arithmetic frame by punching holes in a cigarette tin. When they have finished this schooling, they will not be scholars, though some of them reach Standard Five in the general curriculum, but they will know every inch and every activity of their village. They will be part of their community because they have never left it. They will stand a good chance of marrying local girls and of raising families which they can maintain and protect at a standard not much below the average of the community.

Lepers also benefit from this action and Mr. Wilson mentions : "the striking achievement" which has been recorded at the Ogi River Leprosy Settlement in Eastern Nigeria. When we think that

these men have to overcome not merely the handicap of blindness but also to endure this terrible affliction, one is filled with admiration for their courage and also for those who have thus enlarged their action in such profoundly humane work. This is borne out by but one example. "... Reports in August 1959 showed that all the eight blind people who returned home from the Leper Settlement during the previous year were well established and on their way to becoming self-supporting ..."

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Those who work for the Red Cross are well aware that in any welfare work it is necessary to know the setting in which they have to work and to take this into account. The *Revue internationale* published an article in April 1953 by Dr. Pierre Dorolle on the connection between ethnology and problems of health and an analysis last October of the work of Mr. J. P. Lebeuf on the relationship between this subject and medical aid. Effective medical action depends on previous knowledge of the setting and of the likely reactions, if these can be foreseen, of individuals and groups to this action.

Mr. Wilson bears this out when he says :

It was early recognised that in the setting of most tribal villages the blind man should not be treated as an individual standing alone, but rather as a component of a family team in which different members have different tasks. The distribution of labour may differ from one area to another, but the local pattern is usually so firmly fixed by tradition that it would be courting disaster to try to alter it. Once the blind man's position as a worker has been established, the specialisation of labour may well be one of his greatest assets, as he can often rely on his wife, children, relatives or neighbours to do parts of the task which are difficult for him. Provision is now being made in a number of the courses for the blind man's wife or working partner to join him during the latter part of the course ; more can and will be done in this direction when smaller centres recruiting from the immediate locality are established. . .

He goes on to say that " no one who has been concerned with this work would yet attempt more than a provisional assessment of its results " and that " one of the most interesting features of this programme has been the way ideas have changed and are continuing to change with experience " . . .

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This seems to us to be of particular interest since it relates to an attitude which concerns all humanitarian work if it is to be effective, that of flexibility. It seems in fact, in the face of changing circumstances and situations and the rapid evolution of thought and facts, that all such work, if it wishes to be effective, should be free to improvise even at the risk of unbalancing a rigid programme which is incapable of dealing with the unexpected or with the consequences of events. This article indeed brings out how improvisation can lead to excellent results. A proof of this has been the success of agricultural courses for the blind, which have allowed for many different types of mentality.

This does not, however, mean that mistakes have not been made which the author mentions, but these have been due to their practicability or otherwise. Thus in the beginning "a mistake which was made . . . in some courses was to concentrate on agriculture and virtually to ignore other aspects of village life". He points out that this misrepresented the facts in most villages, where agriculture is merely part of the man's work and where some supplementary trade is necessary.

On the other hand, it was realized from the outset that the tribal organization in the villages had to be taken into consideration. It would have been a serious mistake to treat the blind man as an individual standing alone, and this ruling idea has previously been mentioned, but he should rather be treated "as a component of a family team in which different members have different tasks".

It is difficult to imagine the amount of sacrifice and patience required by those who undertook this action to reach and convince those they wished to rescue from begging and inactivity. "Officials of the Uganda Foundation for the Blind spent six months on "recruitment safaris" before they started the first course at Salama, and in Nigeria a member of the staff travelled 7,000 miles in the process of recruiting the first 16 students." The author points out that an essential and necessarily expensive preliminary to any scheme of this kind must be adequate publicity to ensure substantial recruitment. Much effort is indeed needed but it sometimes achieves gratifying results: "Recently in Nigeria a chief, who had seen a trained blind man at work in a neighbouring area, asked that a "blind farm" should be started in his village."

Mr. Wilson is certainly under no illusions and he emphasizes that training is merely the first and probably "the least difficult part of the problem". The acid test of any rehabilitation programme is what becomes of the students three or four years after they have left the centre, and this scheme has not yet been in operation long enough to apply that test. Moreover, as he points out, the aim is not merely to solve the problem in a few selected localities, but to establish a new pattern of work for the blind and to develop it "on a scale not previously attempted in blind welfare". According to a recent statement by the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, its intention is to devote a major share of its resources to the development of rural training facilities during the next five years and in brief the task which it has set itself is as follows : to find a method of training which is capable of adoption by any well organized community and to develop this training on a mass scale by calling "for expertly staffed institutions and specialized after-care arrangements."

Mr. John Wilson concludes his most interesting article by expressing the hope that "a proper relationship is established between workers for the blind and all different movements for community development and village aid."

In October 1960 the *Revue internationale* published an article entitled "The Red Cross Field of Action is becoming wider" which described the new tasks which have to be undertaken by National Societies as a result of the conditions of modern life. It appears that they are all capable of bringing effective aid in this great action, since by uniting their efforts with those of a well co-ordinated movement, they can bring their experience and long traditions into the field of welfare and of the struggle against suffering.

J. Z.

## M I S C E L L A N E O U S

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### AUXILIARY HEALTH PERSONNEL

According to information given by the World Health Organization, the need for auxiliary health personnel is increasingly acute both in the less-developed countries where fully trained doctors are scarce, and in developed areas where the contrary is true. The more specialized medicine becomes, the more work the doctor can, and should pass on to someone else, especially essential laboratory and other technical procedures.

This was underlined at a recent meeting of a World Health Organization Expert Committee on Professional and Technical Education of Medical and Auxiliary Personnel, attended by specialists from eight countries.

It was pointed out, for example, that there were more than 29,000 auxiliary health workers in the US Veterans Administration alone. Also in the USSR, which is one of the countries of the world best supplied with doctors in proportion to population, there is still a substantial demand for medium-grade health staff with fewer years of preparation.

The training and employment of doctors and other professional personnel is so expensive that it is considered uneconomical for them to spend their time on tasks that can be done by skilled assistants.

On the other hand, all classes of health workers are lacking in many countries, and auxiliaries must undertake great responsibilities until enough professional personnel can be trained.

The Expert Committee outlined the best methods of preparing these auxiliaries for their work, especially medical assistants, auxiliary nurses, midwives, etc.

A distinction was made between multi-purpose and single purpose workers, an example of the latter being sprayers in malaria

eradication teams who are required to perform a relatively simple task for a limited time. It was considered preferable, however, whenever possible, to give a broader training than this, with the emphasis on public health, so that the auxiliaries could be rapidly adapted to other posts when required.

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## 8th MEETING ON MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL LAW

Readers of the *Revue internationale* will know that a Working Party was constituted several years ago to study certain problems connected with medical international law. This party consisted of representatives of the World Medical Association, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as of the World Health Organization in the capacity of observer.

At the end of March of this year the Working Party held its eighth meeting at the headquarters of the World Medical Association in Geneva. It continued its study of the protection of civilian medical personnel in times of conflict and made a special examination of the measures which should be taken to introduce into positive international law the regulations which it had recently drawn up on the subject, as well as deciding upon the emblem for the medical profession, the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground.

The Working Party also studied the question of the status of medical personnel which had fallen into the hands of the enemy and was held by him and of the eventual definition of its status which would ensure the continuation at all times of the medical activities of detained personnel.

The study of the problems thus raised will be pursued by each of the organizations represented in the Working Party until its next meeting, which will take place in the Spring of 1962.

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## A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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### **The Red Cross World.** — *Geneva, January-March 1961.*

The latest issue of the official organ of the League of Red Cross Societies is devoted to the organization of Red Cross relief. The striking photographs which illustrate this review show first-aid workers engaged in disasters such as floods and earthquakes, helping refugees, etc. wherever they occur in the world.

Various articles deal with the achievements of the National Societies and the League in this field. Thus, for example, Mr. M. Gazay, Assistant Director of the Information and Publications Bureau of the League, gives a very vivid account of his mission to Morocco where he was sent to look after a camp for victims at Agadir. Mr. Roy Popkin, Assistant to the National Director of the Disaster Services of the American Red Cross, describes the "Disaster College" of that Society and the courses which are conducted each year by the American Red Cross Disaster Services. Those who need an elementary introduction to disaster relief as well as those who want an advanced training can attend these courses held by the various regional branches of the Society. "The students of the 'Disaster College' are Red Cross social workers, field representatives, nurses, supply experts, and building and construction specialists".

Under the heading "Disaster Relief through a Century", Mr. H. W. Dunning, former Secretary-General of the League, has written an interesting article in which he traces the history of disaster relief since the principle was accepted by the founders of the Red Cross. We reproduce below the introduction to this article.

"Disaster relief, as it is known today, did not come full bloomed into the Red Cross. In fact, it was frowned upon by the founding fathers for a number of years as extraneous to the primary aim of the Red Cross, the implementation of the first Geneva Convention of 1864 for 'the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field'.

It was only when local Associations of the Red Cross continued to practise and develop it that at the Second International Red Cross Conference in Berlin, in 1869, a compromise was reached in the form of Resolutions Nos. 20 and 21 which provided that 'assistance and relief in disasters which may afflict peoples *during peacetime* is a condition of the vigorous development of the Societies and a *useful preparation for*

*their wartime work* . . . Relief Societies should, therefore, in peacetime devote themselves to humanitarian work *corresponding to their wartime duties.*'

Subsequent Conferences became even more cautious : the third one (1884) stipulated that 'Red Cross Societies *may in peacetime associate themselves as far as possible with humanitarian work corresponding to their wartime duties*' and the Seventh Conference in 1902 limited itself to 'recognizing' the participation of the Red Cross in disaster relief work. [The italics are the author's.]

After that, the subject was dropped until the foundation of the League of Red Cross Societies in May, 1919.

This, of course, does not mean that local or regional Red Cross Associations and National Societies did nothing in the way of disaster relief in the meanwhile, but it was usually limited to medical and nursing services.

Even the League in its early days hesitated over the question of disaster relief. Most of the 26 original member Societies had little or no experience in it and the problem of arousing governmental and public interest in international assistance appeared enormous.

A proposal by the Eleventh International Red Cross Conference in 1923 'to leave it to the League of Nations and to Governments throughout the world to examine under what form they shall cooperate . . . in the development of international relief work in case of disaster' was greeted by many delegates with a sigh of relief.

However, the League did set about encouraging and assisting National Societies to build up relief organizations and to contribute to international relief actions such as a typhus campaign in Europe and aid to victims of famine in Russia and earthquakes in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan and Persia.

Soon after the outbreak of World War II, the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross combined to form the Joint Relief Commission which during the next six years distributed aid valued at more than \$200 million to distressed civilian populations in Belgium, China, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia and the USSR.

In 1946, however, this Commission was dissolved, at the request of the League, which then proceeded to establish its own Relief Bureau.

It was the beginning of a new era in international disaster relief."

**Humaniser l'hôpital**, by Marcel Candille, *Revue de l'infirmière et de l'assistante sociale*, Paris, 1961, N° 4.

The problem is not whether hospitals should be made more "human" or not, since everyone is agreed that this is necessary. The question is, therefore, firstly, what importance do the authorities give, among their various national tasks, to the need for transforming the hospitals for the greatest benefit of the patients?—how much is health worth to them?, and secondly, what direction should this transformation take?: should it be technical or human?

The first question does not lie within our province. As regards the second, we have seen that the "humanized" hospital is a synthesis of two basically different factors: a certain state of mind, a certain notion of its rôle and mission—and, on the other hand, adequate financial means used with a certain amount of ingenuity.

The importance of these two points is not to be under-estimated. However, we consider the problem of making hospitals more human to be a matter of morale and psychology rather than one of administration and organization. A lifeless, cold technique alone is generally of little help, especially to someone whose health or even life is in danger.

In the most difficult moments of human existence, the machine abdicates its powers and its prestige. It is easy to suffer unaided and to die in despair in a world dominated by chromium and graphs.

But how important it is for a man labouring under the stress of living or appalled at the approach of death to have a nurse at his side capable of self-control and presence of mind, moreover endowed with the gift of compassion for the suffering of others. How precious is understanding, a smile or a squeeze of the hand at the decisive moment of a life hanging in the balance.

Without doubt, technical knowledge must be placed at the service of a modern hospital, but, as Péguy would have said, this must be activated by the heart.

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EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross <sup>1</sup>.

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross, comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

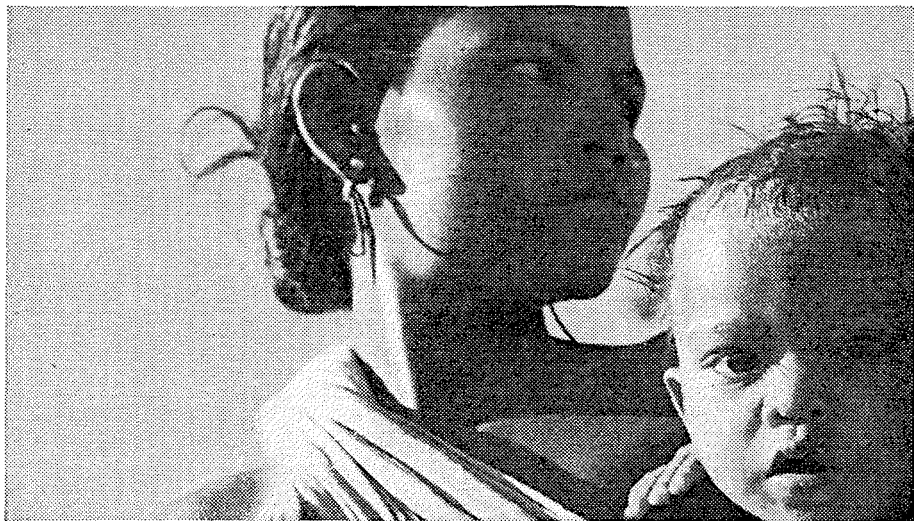
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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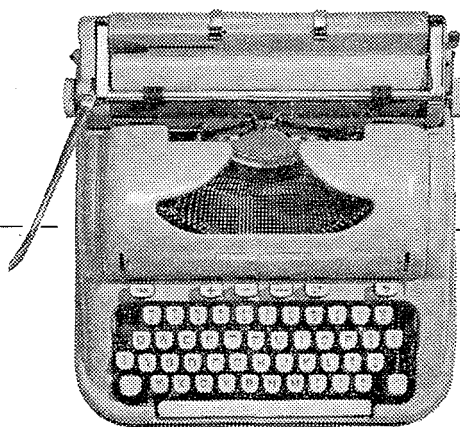


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- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Yrigoyen 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, 135 Avenida Simon-Bolivar, *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boulevard S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Vithei Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Turret Road, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria, 0150 *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — National Red Cross Society of China, *Peking*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Ciudad Trujillo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitu 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 2*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Korean Red Cross Building 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, *Beirut*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, Ducor Hall, 109 Front st. *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA** — Libyan Red Crescent, Sharia Gasser Hamed, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG** — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4º piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, quai des Etats-Unis, *Monaco*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, *Wellington C.I.*
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA** — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippines National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B.280 *Manila*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon*.
- RUMANIA** — Rumanian Red Cross, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic)** — South African, Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building 14 Hollard Street, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hồng-Thập-Tu 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.